

**Bloomington Celebrates
Disability Awareness Month during March 2018
and
Community Accessibility Month during April 2018**

(As of February 28)

The months of March and April offer Bloomington a time to consider ways in which our community is a welcoming one to people with disabilities. During March, Bloomington and communities across Indiana celebrate **Disability Awareness Month**. In April, the City of Bloomington's Council for Community Accessibility celebrates **Accessibility Awareness Month**. A wealth of activities will be occurring in Bloomington and on the IU campus over these next two months. Individuals with disabilities, family members, service providers, faculty, and other community members are encouraged to participate.

MARCH DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH ACTIVITIES

Monday, March 5th Aging: What's Normal, What's Not

Part of the "Caregiver University" series presented by IU Health Bloomington, Purdue Extension of Monroe County, and the Monroe County Public Library, this free workshop will help learners understand and recognize the differences in "normal" and "not normal" aging. Alzheimer's Educator Dayna Thompson will emphasize the value of matching helping behaviors to the person's needs and retained abilities in order to promote a sense of control and self-direction. She will also address typical issues that occur throughout the progression of dementia. Presented at the Ellettsville Branch Library from noon to 2:00 PM. Please register by calling the Library: 812-349-3050. For more information, contact Chris Jackson at cjackson@monroe.lib.in.us

Thursday, March 8th "Way to Go" Travel Training

Bloomington Transit hosts free travel training sessions for individuals and groups. The purpose is to teach people of all abilities to navigate the city bus system. Sessions are held each month. This March 8th class will be held at 1:00 - 3:00 pm at the 3rd & Walnut Transit Center. Additional classes can be arranged. Interested persons or groups must RSVP. For more information and to RSVP contact Eli McCormick, Customer Service Manager, at mccormick@bloomingtontransit.com or 812-336-7433.

Thursday, March 8th Indiana Disability Month Awareness Film Series: Life, Animated

Join Monroe County Public Library and Stone Belt Inc. for a film series exploring and celebrating those with disabilities. The film featured on March 8th is Life, Animated. It's a coming of age story about a boy and his family who overcame great challenges by turning Disney animated movies into a language to express love, loss, kinship and brotherhood. For more information about the event, contact Adam Hamel at 812-332-2168 ext. 269 or at ahamel@stonebelt.org.

Saturday, March 10th Training Program

People & Animal Learning Services (PALS) is offering a volunteer training for individuals interested in participating in PALS therapeutic equine programs. Volunteers participate on a weekly basis. Responsibilities include leading horses and/or side-walking for our clients during riding sessions. Volunteers have the opportunity to work closely with PALS clients, learn about therapeutic equine programs, and help groom, saddle, train, and care for horses and help with barn chores. No horse experience necessary! The training starts at 10:00 am. For more information, contact Cynthia Wakley at cynthia@palstherapy.org or 812-336-2798 ext. 15.

Thursday, March 15th Indiana Disability Month Awareness Film Series: A Friend Indeed: The Bill Sackter Story

Join Monroe County Public Library and Stone Belt Inc. for a film series exploring and celebrating those with disabilities. The film featured on March 15th is A Friend Indeed: The Bill Sackter Story. The true story of Bill Sackter's emergence from lifelong institutionalization, to become an international hero for people with disabilities. For more information about the event, contact Adam Hamel at 812-332-2168 ext. 269 or at ahamel@stonebelt.org.

Monday, March 19th Heartland Association, American Council of the Blind (ACB) Meeting

The Heartland Association of ACB meets bimonthly on the 3rd Monday of the month for a casual meet and greet at 6:30 pm, and with the program beginning at 7:00 pm. The March 19th meeting will be held in the Monroe County Public Library. For more information, contact Barbara Salisbury at barbara.salisbury@att.net or 812-369-0355.

Wednesday, March 21st, Monthly Meeting

Come join Monroe County Coalition for Access and Mobility (MCCAM) for our March meeting, Wednesday, March 21st, to hear Beth Rosenbarger, from the Bloomington Planning and Transportation Department, discuss the greenway neighborhood demonstration project to be installed soon on Allen Street near Bryan Park. This is a "shared street" project and there are many considerations for users of all abilities! Best practices? Be informed at the beginning of the process, not after the project is complete! MCCAM meets at 11:30 a.m. at the Bloomington Transit multipurpose room at Third and Walnut. Free parking is just a half block away in the Fourth street parking garage. We're also planning for an accessible bike demonstration in May, Bicycle Month! Stay tuned for more details. Questions? Contact Barbara Salisbury, 812-369-0355 or mccam1234@gmail.com.

Wednesday, March 21st Memory Screenings

A simple and safe evaluation that can indicate whether it's time to consult a qualified healthcare professional. For anyone with warning signs or a family history of dementia or Alzheimer's – and those who just want to test their memory for future comparison. A partnership of IU Health Bloomington, the National Memory Screening Program, and the Library. Please register by calling Chris Jackson at 812-349-3103.

Wednesday, March 21st Autism Friendly Movie

The lights are up, the sound is low, and no one will complain about a little noise or movement. Movies are shown at the Monroe County Public Library in the Auditorium on the 1st floor from 6:00 pm until 7:30 pm. Appropriate for ages 5 and up. For more information, contact Chris Jackson at cjackson@mcpl.info or 812-349-3050.

Wednesday, March 21st Mock Interview Day

Mock Interview Day is a chance for individuals with disabilities to practice interviewing skills with a community employer. The Job Developers Council will be hosting this event from 12:00-2:00 pm at MCCSC Education Resource Center. The Job Development Council, a part of the Community Transition Council, consists of representatives from Bloomington North and South High Schools, Community Transitions Program, LifeDesigns, Stone Belt, Centerstone, and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. If interested in participating, contact Brandi Hamilton at bhamilton@lifedesignsinc.org.

Thursday, March 22st Indiana Disability Month Awareness Film Series: Sanctuary

Join Monroe County Public Library and Stone Belt Inc. for a film series exploring and celebrating those with disabilities. The film featured on March 22nd is Sanctuary. Larry and Sophie, two people with intellectual disabilities, long to be together in a world that does everything to keep them apart. For more information about the event, contact Adam Hamel at 812-332-2168 ext. 269 or at ahamel@stonebelt.org.

APRIL ACCESSIBILITY AWARENESS MONTH ACTIVITIES

Thursday, April 5th "Way to Go" Travel Training

Bloomington Transit hosts free travel training sessions for individuals and groups. The purpose is to teach people of all abilities to navigate the city bus system. Sessions are held each month. This April 5th class will be held at 1:00 - 3:00 pm at the 3rd & Walnut Transit Center. Additional classes can be arranged. Interested persons or groups must RSVP. For more information and to RSVP, contact Eli McCormick, Customer Service Manager, at mccormick@bloomingtontransit.com or 812-336-7433.

Thursday, April 5th Transition Fair

The Monroe/Owen Transition Council will host its annual Transition Fair on Thursday, April 5th from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm at Ivy Tech Community College in the Student Commons/Shreve Hall. There will be more than 30 vendors from adult service providers to recreation to advocacy to transportation represented. The theme of this year is "You're a Star!" For further information, contact Kathy Bruner at kbruner@mccsc.edu

Saturday, April 7th Training Program

People & Animal Learning Services (PALS) is offering a volunteer training for individuals interested in participating in PALS therapeutic equine programs. Volunteers participate on a weekly basis. Responsibilities include leading horses and/or side-walking for our clients during riding sessions. Volunteers have the opportunity to work closely with PALS clients, learn about therapeutic equine programs, and help groom, saddle, train, care for horses and help with barn chores. No horse experience necessary! The training starts at 10:00 am. For more information, contact Cynthia Wakley at cynthia@palstherapy.org or 812-336-2798 ext. 15

Monday, April 9th IU Cinema Presents "States of Grace"

States of Grace is an incredible documentary about the beauty and the fragility of life. Dr. Grace Dammann is an inspiring woman, and her courage in the face of unimaginable obstacles is truly awe-inspiring. Grace's journey, after surviving a head-on collision on the Golden Gate Bridge, is surprising, painful, funny, and bittersweet. All of the ups-and-downs of life are laid bare before you. It is rare to see such an honest and moving portrayal of the human condition represented on the big screen. You will be touched by Grace. (2K DCP Presentation) Director Helen Cohen and Grace Dammann are scheduled to be present. For more information, contact IU Cinema at iucinema@indiana.edu or 812-856-2463.

Tuesday, April 10h Understanding and Treating Pain

At best it's a temporary inconvenience; at worst it's a life-altering and expensive chronic condition. Either way, pain is an unavoidable part of life. This participatory session, featuring physical therapist and wellness coach Janet Delong, helps you better understand physical pain, and strategies for its management. No registration required.

Wednesday, April 11th Caregiver University: Talking with Your Doctor

Time with doctors is often short – and discussing diagnoses, medications, and other issues can be confusing and intimidating. Learn to be your own best medical advocate by partnering with your care team. Presented by Dayna Thompson, IU Health Bloomington. Please register by calling the Library: 812-349-3050.